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BRIXHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA

FOR THE YEAR 1967.

BRIXHAM URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1967

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BRIXHAM URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1967

preface

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report on the health of the district during 1967.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

An overall increase of 420 persons brings the estimated mid-1967 population to 12,830. There was 1 more death than births and it is estimated that 421 persons moved into the area.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The Birth Rate at 21.32 per thousand is well above the National Rate of 17.2 per thousand and is an indication of the numbers of young couples now in Brixham. The Death Rate at 8.77 per thousand compares very favourably with the National Rate of 11.2 per thousand, and is a slight decrease over last years figure. Two infants died under the age of one year giving a Rate of 10.21 per 1,000 live births which compares very favourably with the National Rate of 18.3 per 1000 live births. Illegitimate births numbered 15 and still births dropped to a total of 2.

Just over half the total number of deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulation and one fifth of the total deaths were due to cancer.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 and 1951

No official action under Section 47 of the 1948 Act, to remove persons in need of care and attention, was necessary in 1967. No burials were carried out under Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

In July 1967 Dr. J. Wildman resigned to take up an appointment in the South West Devon area.

In conclusion I wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation received during the year from Councillors and my Colleagues on the staff.

D. K. MacTAGGART
Acting Medical Officer of Health
from August, 1967.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John H. WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.(Lond). (to July 1967)

D.K. MacTAGGART, Acting Medical Officer of Health (from August, 1967)

LOCAL OFFICE

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Brixham. Telephone: Brixham 2828 Extn. 5

CENTRAL OFFICE - MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices, Oldway, Paignton.

Telephone: Paignton 56371 Extn. 59

Medical Officer's Clerk/Shorthand Typist: Mrs. S. Beaumont,
Public Health Department, Municipal Offices, Oldway, Paignton.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

M. DURHAM-WATSON, Inspector of Meats and Foods, Housing Manager
Inspector under the Petroleum & Explosive Acts
Inspector under the Shops and Factory Acts
Inspector under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963
Inspector for the Riparian Health Area of Brixham

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Brixham. Telephone: Brixham 2828 Extn. 5

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector: Mrs. S. Michelmore.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee for the session 1967/68 was Councillor Miss M. Davies; also on the Committee were Councillors W.S. Dart, Mrs. M. Gabbey, Mrs. A.M. Park, J.P., C.C., M.R.F., and G.T.C. Sewell, K. Green-Wanstall, F.P. Lee, J.P., C.C., Capt. R.M. Thorne.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1967

TABLE 1

Figures for 1966 are shown in brackets

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Brixham Urban District

12,830 (12,410)

Natural increase or decrease	-1	(+10)
Migration in or out	+421	(+370)
Total Increase or Decrease	+420	(+380)

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area in Acres 5,629

Number of Inhabitated Houses according to Rate Books (31st March)

5,172 (4,880)

Number of Houses per acre	0.918	(0.867)
Number of Persons per acre	2.281	(2.205)
Number of Persons per house	2.480	(2.543)

Rateable Value of District (31st March, 1967)

558,169

Estimated Penny Rate Product 1966/67

£2,170.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1967

TABLE 2

Figures for 1966 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	21.32.	(21.49)
Area Comparability Factor for Births	1.41	(1.32)

Number of Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Total	104	90	194
Legitimate	95	84	179
Illegitimate	9	6	15
Number of Still Births	1	1	2

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.77	(9.90)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	0.58	(0.64)

Number of Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
All ages - Total	105	90	195
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	1	1	2
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	1	1
Number under 1 week of age	0	1	1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births 10.31 (10.00)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BIRTH RATE : 17.2 (17.7) DEATH RATE : 11.2 (11.7)

Infantile Mortality Rate: 18.3. (19.0)

(Infants under 1 year of age)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1967

TABLE 1

Age Groups in Years

DISEASE	TOTAL	Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Measles	70	1	34	35	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pertussis	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

TABLE 2

Incidence by Quarters

DISEASE	TOTAL	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	70	60	8	2	0
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	0	1
Pertussis	1	0	1	0	0

OTHER DISEASES INFORMALLY NOTIFIED

January - March

Meningitis	1
Measles	15
Mumps	12

April - June

Measles	1
Mumps	1
Chickenpox	1

July - September

Measles	1
Scarletina	1
German Measles	2
Glandular Fever	1
Nymphocytic Meningitis	1

October - December

Chickenpox	1

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION

During the year 382 certificates of Smallpox and Cholera vaccination in respect of persons travelling abroad were authenticated by the Public Health Department.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1967

Line No.		M.	F.	Total
	ALL CAUSES	105	90	195
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	0	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasms, stomach	5	0	5
11.	" " lungs, bronchus	7	1	8
12.	" " Breast	0	5	5
13.	" " Uterus	-	0	0
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	11	24
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	1	1
16.	Diabetes	1	0	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	12	22
18.	Coronary disease, angina	30	20	50
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	11	11	22
21.	Other circulatory disease	7	6	13
22.	Influenza	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	4	2	6
24.	Bronchitis	4	2	6
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	0	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	1	0	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	15	17
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	0	1	1
34.	All other accidents	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	1	0	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR BRIXHAM

LABORATORY SERVICE

Laboratory facilities for the bacteriological examination of pathological specimens, samples of milk, water, ice cream and shell fish, are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service, at Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter (Telephone: Exeter 77833).

In emergency, certain (medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

The chemical analysis of water and other samples is undertaken by Dr. Cedric V. Reynolds, Public Analyst, 1 Barnfield Crescent, Exeter (Telephone Exeter 72836)

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Brixham Hospital has 23 beds, 18 of which are general medical and surgical; and 5 maternity; and is managed by the Torquay Hospital Management Committee. The district is also served by the Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

There are 7 general Medical Practitioners together with 2 Dentists in practice at Brixham.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Old People's Welfare

The Brixham Old People's Welfare Committee and it's subsidiaries, comprising Friendly Visiting, Good Companions Club, a Meals-on-Wheels Service and a Night or Day Sitter Service, brings a good deal of comfort and cheer to our elderly residents.

Laywell Old People's Home caters for residents of both sexes, 27 in all. It is owned and managed by Brixham Old People's Housing Association Ltd.

Blood Transfusion Service

A mobile unit visited Brixham in April and October 1967, and worked at the Methodist Schoolroom.

Information Service

The W.R.V.S. operate an inquiry office at the Harbour and this has proved to be most useful. There is also a Council owned information office adjoining the Town Hall.

Mortuary

There is a public mortuary adjoining the Ambulance Station in Bolton Street, Brixham.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

SOURCE OF SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the South West Devon Water Board and is derived mainly from moorland catchment areas augmented in the summer months by a supply from the Board's Radial Collector above Totnes Weir.

RESERVOIRS

There are three service reservoirs; at Hillhead (525,000 gallons), Alstone (1,000,000 gallons) and Laywell (326,000 gallons).

Water from Hillhead reservoir also supplies properties in the Kingswear locality.

TREATMENT

All the water has been treated with chlorine before use, and where necessary it has also been filtered and undergone pH correction.

QUANTITY

The Board has undertaken a number of improvement schemes to augment supplies to the town and supplies of drinking water have since shown a marked improvement. No water shortage occurred during the peak summer months of 1967.

QUALITY

(a) Bacteriological

Regular bacteriological samples of the treated drinking water were taken. Out of a total of 95 samples recorded only 6 showed a small count and subsequent samples were all satisfactory.

(b) Chemical

The results of a chemical analysis of the treated water at Laywell Reservoir on 28th March 1967, was as follows:-

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION (Mg./L.)

Appearance:		Bright with a few particles
Colour:		Nil (Hazen Scale)
Turbidity:		Less than 3 (A.P.H.A. Units)
Odour:		'Chlorinous'
Free Carbon Dioxide:		14
Electric Conductivity:		490
Chlorine present as Chlorine:		32
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°		325
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate:		180
Hardness:	Total	245
	Carbonate	180
	Non-Carbonate	65
Nitrate Nitrogen:		5.5
Nitrite Nitrogen:		Absent
* Ammonical Nitrogen:		0.01
* Albummoid Nitrogen:		0.00
Oxygen absorbed:		0.10
Residual Chlorine:		0.22
Metals:	Iron	Absent
	Zinc	Absent
	Copper	Absent
	Lead	Absent
Hydrogen Ion Concentration equivalent to pH		7.4

* To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is hard in character but it's hardness and it's content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not considered excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate from the aspect of the chemical analysis, a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic Refuse is collected once weekly, and an unlimited number of bins are emptied free of charge. If an additional collection is required during the week, a charge will be made of one shilling per bin collected. Forms of application are supplied at the Town Hall.

Trade refuse is also collected once weekly, but only one free bin is allowed. All other bins are charged at one shilling per bin emptied. Arrangements can be made for a second collection of trade refuse (no free bin) on receipt of an application form, supplied at the Town Hall.

SHARKHAM POINT REFUSE TIP

Controlled tipping of refuse takes place into an old quarry situated on the Northern slope of the point above St. Mary's Bay. Since the Council took steps to prohibit unauthorised tipping the appearance of the tip has improved, and it's management is made easier.

PUBLIC HEALTH

DRAINAGE INSPECTIONS

223 houses and flats were completed during the year and considerable time was given to the supervision of the design and construction of drainage systems.

The tests and inspections carried out by the Drainage and Building Inspector are classified as follows:-

Total number of drainage inspections	308
New drainage tested and found satisfactory	248
Extensions to old drains tested and found satisfactory	48

DRAINAGE

Nothing to report.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Two houses containing seven rooms were treated against vermin.

The collection of mattresses and other items for disposal is now operated at a fee of one shilling for each article.

HOLIDAY CAMPS

The holiday camps were surveyed during the peak period of the last week in July and first few days in August. A total of 20 camp sites was visited. There were 1,629 chalets, 551 caravans and 342 tents, and 5 Dormobiles, estimated to contain 9,510 persons.

In addition there were 50 roadside and car park campers.

97 other inspections of holiday camps also took place. It was estimated that 1,262 persons were at hotels and boarding houses, 4,240 in bed and breakfast houses and 1,000 in holiday flats;bringing the peak holiday population to 16,062. The resident population was 12,830 (mid 1967) so that the total population approached 28,892 persons.

SWIMMING POOLS

There is a sea water swimming pool at Shoalstone. It is owned by the Council. There are five privately owned pools.

COMPLAINTS

114 complaints including complaints about holiday accommodation were satisfactorily dealt with.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rentokil Ltd., took over the service from January, 1965. Treatment to private houses is free of charge, but a charge is made for treating business premises.

During the year the Company carried out 430 visits in the district. A summary of the work done, based on the Report already submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food is tabulated as follows:-

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in District	5880	43
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) Inspected following notification	193	25
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	107	22
(ii) Mice	86	5
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	0	0
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	0	0
(ii) Mice	0	0

Sewers infested by rats during the year Nil.

SEWERS

Just over fourteen per cent of the sewers were treated. No trace of rats was found.

INSECT PEST CONTROL - 26 wasps nests destroyed. 1 swarm of bees dispersed.

A charge of five shillings per property was made.

HOUSING

INSPECTIONS

262 houses in the district were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts during 1967.

3 Legal Notices and 10 Informal Notices and letters were served. All complied with.

OVERCROWDING

One case of overcrowding was reported and dealt with satisfactorily during the year.

SUBSTANDARD PROPERTY

During the year (September) the Closing Order on 3, Higher Street was determined.

RENT ACT, 1957

No action was required under this Act during the year

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

9 inspections were carried out in connection with the above.

NEW DEVELOPMENT - PLANS

39 inspections were carried out.

COUNCIL HOUSING

16 flats for old people at Lee Court, Centry Road, Brixham were completed and allocated to single elderly people from Council Houses who were required to move to smaller single accommodation.

COUNCIL HOUSING - WAITING LIST

21 applicants were housed from the current year Waiting List and 23 families transferred to larger or smaller accommodation according to requirements upon request to the Council.

At the end of 1967 the waiting list for accommodation showed no increase. Half the total number of applicants are between the ages of 60 and 70 years. Fifty per cent of the demand is for one bedroom accommodation and of the remainin fifty per cent on the waiting list approximately three quarters require two bedrooms.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

ICE CREAM

A total of 83 premises is registered for the sale or storage of ice cream as follows:-

Bakers/Confectioners	9
Cafes	18
Camp Cafes/Shops	12
Beach Huts/Kiosks	3
Multiple Store	2
Tea Trailer	1
Grocers/Greengrocers	31
Dairy	0
Club	2
Hotels	2
Mobile Van	1
Market Stall	1
Bingo Hall	1

Five of the premises listed are registered for the sale and part-manufacture of ice cream.

MILK AND CREAM SAMPLES

One milk sample taken from School was satisfactory.

At a manufacturing creamery in the area, 12 out of 14 samples of cream passed the phosphatase test, 9 out of 14 samples passed the methylene blue test and 8 out of 14 samples showed the presence of coliform organisms. It is thought the presence of coliforms could be due to post-heating contamination and the Public Health Laboratory Service has made a detailed study of this problem elsewhere in the United Kingdom (Monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health and Public Health Laboratory Service Vol. 25 July, 1966 page 153). From a control point of view the position is difficult because there is no legal bacteriological standard laid down for cream. The pasteurisation equipment at the local creamery is modern and of a high standard and bacteriological results of tests on cream samples have since shown an improvement.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Food surrendered as being unfit for human consumption is listed below:-

CANNED FOOD		OTHER FOOD	
Meat	275½ lb.	Jam	4 tins and 11 jars
Fruit	247 tins	Liquid egg	14 lbs.
Fish	18 tins	Soup	10 tins.
Vegetables	111 tins		
Milk	1 tin		
Fruit Juice	18 tins		
Rice Pudding	31 tins		
S. & K. Pudding	5 tins		

These foodstuffs were disposed of by burial at the Council's refuse tip on Sharkham Point.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

A total of 102 inspections was made. Six complaints about inedible or contaminated foodstuffs were received. Two were passed on to the Devon County Council Sampling Officer for attention, and the others dealt with satisfactorily by the Public Health Inspector.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Sampling.

Sampling Officers of the Devon County Council administer this Act in Brixham. No reports were received of adulterated samples.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

An ice cream van and a fish and chip van working in the area were both inspected in accordance with the above regulations.

The ice cream van ceased working in the area from October 1967.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTS

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

Number of licences granted to store Petroleum ..	21
Amount of Petroleum stored	50,950 gallons

EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 & 1923

Licences were granted as follows:-

Storage of Gunpowder, Gelignite and Fuses ...	1
Sale of Ammunition	1
Sale of Fireworks	12

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One pet shop was licensed under the provisions of the Act, and continued to operate satisfactorily.

GAME ACT, 1831

Four persons were licensed to deal in game.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

A summary of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st December, 1967 is as follows:-

TABLE A

Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises newly registered during 1967	Total registrations to date	No. of registered premises inspected
Offices	-	44	4
Retail Shops	5	124	61
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	4	3
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	1	36	36
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	1
TOTAL	6	209	105

TABLE B

Number of visits of all kinds by the Inspector to Registered Premises:-

130

TABLE C

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by work place

Males	Females	Total
379	646	1,025

Class of work place	No. of persons employed
Offices	236
Retail Shops	477
Wholesale Departments Warehouses	41
Catering Establishments open to the public	267
Canteens	-
Fuel Storage Depots	4
	1,025

TABLE D

Exemptions

Part I	-	Space (Section 5(2))	... Nil
Part II	-	Temperature (Section 6)	... Nil
Part III	-	Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9)	... Nil
Part IV	-	Washing Facilities (Section 10)	... Nil

TABLE E

Prosecutions

Nil.

TABLE F

Inspectors

No. of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act	... 1
No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act	... Nil

SECTION D

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM

The following is a summary of information in respect of the year 1967.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

(i) Factories without Mechanical Power:
(Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6)

Number on Register	1
Inspections	1
Written Notices	0
Occupiers prosecuted	0

(ii) Factories with Mechanical Power:
(Section 7)

Number on Register	46
Inspections	20
Written Notices	0
Occupiers presecuted	0

(iii) Other Premises under the Act:
(Sections 7 and 127)
(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Constructions, but excluding Outworker's Premises).

Number on Register	7
Inspections	28
Written Notices	0
Occupiers prosecuted	0

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

		Section 133		Section 134	
Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Wearing Apparel) Making Lampshades) etc.	6 3	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
TOTAL	9	0	0	0	0

(7) There were no prosecutions.

SECTION E

RIPARIAN HEALTH DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM 1967 (SUMMARISED)

The above Report was submitted to the Ministry of Health in February 1968.

A total of 1,303 ships with a nett tonnage of 264,667 tons entered the area. These figures do not include liners calling for pilots as these vessels do not encroach on the harbour limits. Most of the vessels call at the oil wharf, for bunkering purposes, and stay there only a few hours. Often they arrive overnight and are away by dawn.

No cases of infectious illness aboard ship were reported. Seven mariners received medical treatment as summarised below:-

Belgian	(2)	Arm - Broken Ribs.
British	(1)	Coronary Thrombosis.
Dutch	(1)	Coronary Thrombosis.
French	(1)	Nose and Ear.
Liberian	(1)	Injury not specified.
U.S.A.	(1)	Face.

The Torbay Lifeboat is stationed at Brixham.